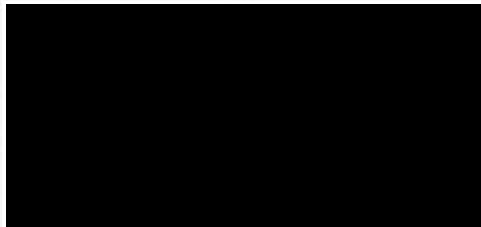


From: WordPress <wordpress@npf.ie>
Sent: 24 October 2017 12:02
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040 Submission from Colin Guilfoyle
Attachments: plan2040.pdf

Name: Colin
Surname: Guilfoyle



Message:

Please find attached response to the NPF 2040 Plan.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on National Planning Framework (<http://npf.ie>)

Department of Housing Planning
Community and local Government
Custom House
Dublin
D01 W6X0

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Submission of Ireland 2040 our plan

I make this submission as a business owner in Drogheda and a resident in the local community for over 13 years. Having read and reviewed the 2040 plan I feel it important to address some omissions within the plan with relation to the local area. I come from the perspective of being a business owner, software developer and accountant.

Within the current plan there seems to be a tendency to put all towns over 10,000 population in the same development classification, this seems wholly unwise given that Drogheda in its core town area (ignoring hinterland) is already nearing the population of Galway when it achieved city status and by the end of 2040 assuming the growth of 25% proposed for towns of this size and area will be far in excess of the figure even halfway through the plan. To suggest that a town that size has the same requirements or should have the same planning as a town like Tramore is fundamentally flawed (this is no disrespect to Tramore just giving an example of a 10,000 town). Indeed to insist on

Drogheda is 30 minutes from Irelands main airport, has rail and port links along with Motorway access. The population in Drogheda since 2011 has increased faster than any regional city bar Kilkenny (whose population is approximately half Drogheda's). This would indicate that following current trends the town will exceed the 25% the plan quotes in the first place and should be given more attention than it has in the plan or risk leaving a town that cannot meet the needs of its inhabitants during the 20 years of the plan or support businesses like mine as it grows in the years to come.

I would respectfully ask that Drogheda be called out in the plan given its status as the 6th biggest urban area in Ireland (and fastest growing in the top 10 outside Dublin). In terms of its inclusion I would suggest similar to Galway the following items should be considered as part of that plan:

- Delivering a number of regeneration projects for the provision of new development to extend and intensify the Town Centre, including the Port and surrounding areas.
- Progressing the sustainable development of new greenfield areas for housing and the development of supporting public transport and infrastructure, particularly in the surrounding towns such as Laytown, Bettystown, Duleek, Dunore
- Improving access and sustainable transport links to, and integration with, the existing employment areas to the east of the town in the outer business parks.
- The expansion of DKIT's include a campus in Drogheda in the area of IT or Engineering.

- **Improvement of Public transport links to the Airport to facilitate tourism and business connections.**
- **Public realm and urban amenity projects, focused on streets and public spaces, particularly in support of an extended town centre area and where residential and employment areas can be linked to pedestrian routes.**
- **Expansion of the Cycle way and boardwalk projects to create a safe pedestrian and cyclist experience around the town and its satellite towns.**
- **Creation of a new Road Network plan to draw traffic away from the town centre when crossing north/south or the removal of the toll booths to facilitate traffic crossing the town without having to go through the main urban areas.**
- **Upgrade of the existing water infrastructure to avoid issues such as those experienced in 2017.**
- **Improving sustainability in terms of energy, waste and water, to include district heating and water conservation.**

My aim is to continue to grow my business in Drogheda and to be able to employ and support jobs in this community, I would suggest that this plan should reflect the needs of the communities not just now but where they'll be in 20 years time, I fear that by setting out the plan as it is now there is scope for some severe inequality and missed opportunities if we ignore areas like Drogheda for the benefit of slotting a square peg into a round hole within the planning process.